

# DRAFT MINUTES



## City of Tigard Tigard City Council Meeting Minutes April 21, 2015

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### EXCERPT DRAFT MINUTES

#### 6. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE BALLOT MEASURE ITEMS

Assistant City Manager Newton presented this item directing council to the matrix provided in the staff report and stated staff is looking for direction on if and when the council would like to see the topics listed go on a future election.

Charter Revisions:

Mayor Cook reminded the council this is on the May 12 agenda.

Council President Snider asked if it would be possible to have the measure on the November 2015 ballot. Ms. Newton answered she thought it would be possible to meet the August 14 filing deadline with the city recorder, but the council may have to limit the changes to a couple items. Further consideration can be made at the May 12 council meeting.

Funding For General Fund City Services:

Council President Snider stated he would like the council to consider alternative funding sources that may not have to go to a vote.

Mayor Cook said to ensure a better voter turnout, which may be needed for a local option levy, this should go in May or November 2016. He said he leaned toward May 2016 because there could still be good voter turnout with the primaries and the city might have to compete for monies in November. May also allows for the opportunity to send it back to the voters in November if it fails in May. Another consideration is the time it takes to form a Political Action Committee (PAC) which takes about a year to form. It is the PAC that campaigns for the measure.

Councilor Goodhouse asked the council to consider extending the city hall hours in addition to the library hours. Council President Snider said the city hall hours of operation were not reduced; rather, the city moved from an eight hour work day to ten hours allowing city hall and the permit center to have extended hours on Monday through Thursday. Ms. Wine clarified that public works and police operate twenty four hours a day. She added that in the community survey conducted in 2014, there was not a strong sentiment that customers are missing the Friday service.

Councilor Goodhouse expressed concern that the city only obtained the opinion of Tigard citizens and did not get a representation of the business in the metropolitan area that conduct business in Tigard and utilize the permit center. Ms. Newton said we do have other opportunities for customers to conduct their business outside of open hours such as the inspection request line and online plan submission. Many of city hall services are scheduled during open hours such as court, utility billing services and passports. The city has gotten positive response for notary services being provided during late hours after customers get off work.

Councilor Henderson noted the county has two ballot measures on the ballot this November for public services and the library and reminded the council to take that into consideration when deciding when to put city measures on the ballot.

Council President Snider said he did not want any measures asking for money to be on the November 2015 ballot. He stated he did not think an operating levy is the right approach as a funding source for the general fund services and should be reserved for funding city facilities.

Councilor Woodard said he agreed and thought the parks utility fee would cover the funding need for general fund services.

Consensus of council was to pursue a utility fee instead of an operating levy.

#### Funding For City Facilities:

Councilor Woodard testified his strong desire for the city to put a measure before the voters in November 2015 for a YMCA in the community. He felt strongly there is a lot of momentum from the grass root efforts right now and the council would remiss if they did not capitalize on that. He felt confident the voters would approve a \$28 million bond, only increasing taxes by \$10 a month, which is significantly less than Beaverton's recreation district costing them \$300 a month.

Council President Snider said he also supports an obligation bond on the November 2015 ballot for the recreation center concept in order to "seize the moment" and look at a way to build a facility with a private operator. The public works and police facilities could be tackled in May 2016 or even further out. He said he would support opening our library seven days a week before opening a branch library.

Councilor Goodhouse also supported an obligation bond in November 2015 for the recreation center and requested more detail on costs of the construction and operation of a recreation center. City Manager Wine said on May 12 the council will receive the survey results from the YMCA and then further steps and options will be explored to making a decision. She was concerned the details may not be prepared in time to create a proposal for November.

Consensus by council was to pursue a ballot measure to be placed on the November 2015 ballot for a recreation center and hold off on the public works and police facilities until a facilities analysis is completed. Ms. Wine said staff will have an answer in the next year for the needs of expanding police and public works facilities.

#### City Gas Tax Increase:

Mayor Cook asked how much a two cent increase in the gas tax would create in funding. Finance and Information Services Director LaFrance answered each penny would provide \$225,000 give or take. He added the current three cents tax is obligated in paying on the Main Street improvements bond through 2020 which is expensing a little more than three cents per gallon.

Councilor Goodhouse said the increase in the gas tax is one way to fund sidewalks but other sources of funding need to be explored. The community is in support of sidewalk projects and would like to see this project funded.

Council agreed to go to a vote to increase the city gas tax to five cents and requested staff look into other funding sources to fill the funding need gap. Consensus was to look at placing it on a ballot in 2016.

#### High Capacity Transit:

City Manager Wine said in order for high capacity transit to come to Tigard the city would have to amend the comprehensive plan and a comprehensive plan amendment for high capacity transit requires a vote of the electorate.

Mayor Cook suggested doing an advisory vote in November 2016 asking if the community would support moving forward with planning for high capacity transit. In order for high capacity transit to move forward it may take a full region vote which will not be earlier than November 2018.

Council agreed this will need to wait until more information can be received and constituted additional discussion.

#### Urban Renewal District:

Councilor Goodhouse stated he was in favor of expanding the downtown urban renewal area and adding one for 99W. He said the biggest thing he hears is 99W is the face of Tigard and the council needs to do something to improve 99W.

Mayor Cook said his preference would be for expanding the downtown boundaries and then the Tigard Triangle. Council President Snider suggested expanding the downtown boundaries up to ten percent which would not require a vote of the people.

Councilor Woodard said he too had heard from businesses on 99W asking for benefits from an urban renewal district and thought a district from Gaarde Street to north of Highway 217 would be successful.

Consensus of council was to continue discussion on expanding or adding urban renewal districts.

#### Willamette River:

Council President Snider asked if the city had received a legal opinion on whether the requirement to get a vote applies to the Tualatin Valley Water District. Ms. Wine said they had not. The city received a legal opinion identifying the operative issue on the charter vote about the use of Willamette water. It does not require a vote for the planning, building or agreements.

Mayor said continued discussion can occur at a later meeting because this does not look to be on the May or November 2016 election.